

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 039688
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY CTF: JEKARKASHIAN:NWH
APPROVED BY CTF: AMB. HECK
ARA/AND: SUE PATTERSON
M - DR. PIECZENIK (DRAFT)
S/S - SGOLDSMITH
PEACE CORPS - MR. DELLENBACK

-----222329 004317 /62

O 222310Z FEB 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 039688

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PCV: STARR

REF: BOGOTA'S 1657 (SITREP 13)

1. TASK FORCE CONCURS WITH EMBASSY'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE,
PARA 13, REFTEL, WHEREBY PC DIRECTOR WOULD CONTACT
VILLAMIL AGAIN TO REITERATE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF HIS
APPEAL. VILLAMIL'S SELF-SERVING INITIAL RESPONSE AND THE
FOUR STIPULATIONS HE SET FORTH AS CONDITIONS FOR HIS CO-
OPERATION INDICATE AN EFFORT ON HIS PART TO PROBE FOR SOFT
SPOTS AND UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF ATTENTION TO POSSIBLE
FUTURE DEMANDS BY THE KIDNAPPERS.

2. TASK FORCE FULLY SHARES EMBASSY'S CONCLUSION THAT THERE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 039688

ARE IMPORTANT REASONS FOR NOT MEETING VILLAMIL'S DEMANDS.
NOT THE LEAST OF THESE IS TO CONTINUE TO KEEP PEACE
CORPS OUT IN FRONT OF THIS SITUATION. WE SUGGEST THAT P.C.
DIRECTOR USE FOLLOWING APPROACH IN FOLLOW-ON MEETING WITH
VILLAMIL. DIRECTOR IS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY
AND WELFARE OF HIS VOLUNTEERS. FOR THAT REASON HE UNDER-
TOOK THIS PRIVATE MEANS OF APPEALING TO KIDNAPPERS TO

RELEASE STARR BEFORE THE MATTER HAD GONE TOO FAR. STARR IS AN INNOCENT VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES. HE IS YOUNG, IN

BAD HEALTH AND UNDOUBTEDLY FRIGHTENED. KIDNAPPERS HAVE A CHANCE NOW TO LET HIM GO UNHARMED WITHOUT ANY DAMAGE TO THEIR IMAGE OR PRESTIGE.

3. VILLAMIL UNDOUBTEDLY WILL ASK ABOUT HIS FOUR STIPULATIONS. P.C. DIRECTOR SHOULD SAY HE DID INFORM AMBASSADOR OF THE EARLIER CONVERSATION. AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED. FOR THAT SAME REASON PCV STARR ANSWERED THE "AMERICAN EMBASSY" WHEN THE KIDNAPPERS ASKED WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM. HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE. AS THE PC DIRECTOR, HE IS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR STARR'S WELFARE AND HE IS TRYING TO MEET THAT RESPONSIBILITY BY ATTEMPTING TO GET A MESSAGE TO THE KIDNAPPERS THROUGH VILLAMIL.

4. IF VILLAMIL SHOULD REACT NEGATIVELY OR REFUSE TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE KIDNAPPERS WITHOUT SOME ASSURANCE ON HIS STIPULATIONS, P.C. DIRECTOR SHOULD GIVE NO REPEAT NO INDICATION OF GOING BACK TO THE EMBASSY TO RECONSIDER THE STIPULATIONS. BEGIN FYI: WHATEVER VILLAMIL AGREES OR DOES NOT AGREE TO DO WE SHARE EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT HE WILL IN ANY CASE REPORT THE CONVERSATION IN FULL TO THE FARC AND THUS CONVEY THE DESIRED MESSAGE. END FYI.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 039688

5. THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE FOLLOW-ON MEETING WITH VILLAMIL SHOULD BE TO DIRECT FARC'S ATTENTION TO THE PEACE CORPS AND AWAY FROM THE EMBASSY, EMPHASIZE THE HUMANITARIAN EXIT OPEN TO FARC NOW BEFORE HARD POSITIONS ARE TAKEN, KEEP VILLAMIL IN THE POSITION OF AN INFORMED MESSENGER TO FARC RATHER THAN SOMEONE WHO IS NEGOTIATING FOR CONCESSIONS AND TO AVOID ANY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A NEGOTIATING POSTURE.

6. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT VILLAMIL WILL REACT BADLY TO THE FOREGOING AND PERHAPS REFUSE TO CARRY THE MESSAGE. THAT REACTION SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO DISTURB THE P.C. DIRECTOR. HIS RESPONSE SHOULD BE TO AGAIN STATE HIS HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR ONE OF HIS VOLUNTEERS AND HIS BELIEF THAT VILLAMIL AS A MEDICAL DOCTOR WOULD WANT TO BE HELPFUL. IF HOWEVER, VILLAMIL REFUSES OR STATES HE CANNOT CARRY THE MESSAGE WITHOUT THE GUARANTEES, PC DIRECTOR SHOULD ACCEPT THAT DECISION WITH APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION OF REGRET. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT

VILLAMIL NOT REPEAT NOT GET THE IMPRESSIOW THAT HIS
DEMANDS ARE NEGOTIABLE. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, P.C.
DIRECTOR WILL HAVE TO STATE THAT HE SIMPLY CANNOT DEAL

WITH THE ISSUES VILLAMIL RAISED.

7. TASK FORCE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT OF MESSAGE
WHICH P.C. DIRECTOR GAVE TO VILLAMIL IN THEIR FIRST
MEETING.

8. PEACE CORPS CONCURS IN FOREGOING AND WISHES TO BE
KEPT CURRENT ON DETAILS.
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, CITIZEN PROTECTION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE039688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JEKARKASHIAN:NWH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-1217
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770220/aaaaarsc.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ebe160c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BOGOTA 1657
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3261955
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPING OF PCV: STARR
TAGS: PINS, CASC, PFOR, CO, PC
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ebe160c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009